

Message Text

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13-12

ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7725

INFO AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PDIP, BC

SUBJECT: INVITATION FOR SIX-PERSON MINISTERIAL DELEGATION TO
BOTSWANA 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

REF: 75 GABORONE 1285

1. BY A NOTE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN INVITED TO SEND A MINISTERIAL DELEGATION OF SIX PERSONS TO THE BOTSWANA 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION. CELEBRATION WILL OCCUR DURING THE WEEK BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 26 AND ENDING OCTOBER 3, 1976 WITH MAJOR EVENTS OCCURRING ON SEPTEMBER 28, 29 AND 30. THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT REQUESTS THAT IT BE INFORMED IN ADVANCE OF THE DATE AND TIME OF ARRIVAL OF THE DELEGATION, WHICH PERFERABLY WOULD BE BEFORE SEPTEMBER 28.

2. DCM HAS SPOKEN TO EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICER GAREBAMONO AND COORDINATOR OF THE INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION MATENGE FOR CLARIFICATION OF SOME POINTS IN THE NOTE.

(A) GOVERNMENT OF BOTSWANA WILL COVER ALL COSTS SUBSEQUENT TO THE ARRIVAL AND PRIOR TO THE DEPARTURE OF THE GUESTS BUT WILL NOT COVER TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM BOTSWANA.

(B) THE REFERENCE TO "SIX PERSONS" IS INTENDED TO MEAN
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THAT SIX OFFICIALS WOULD COME WITHOUT WIVES. HOWEVER, BOTH

GAREBAMONO AND MATENGE ALLOWED THAT IF A GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO SEND A DELEGATION OF THREE OFFICIALS WITH WIVES (OR FOUR-TWO OR FIVE-ONE), THE GOB WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION. SIX INDIVIDUALS, HOWEVER, IS THE MAXIMUM THAT THE GOB CAN HANDLE, GIVEN THE LARGE NUMBER OF INVITATIONS EXTENDED.

3. RECOGNIZING THAT THE INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION WILL BE IN A VERY ACTIVE PERIOD DURING ELECTION YEAR, THE EMBASSY HAS COME UP WITH THE FOLLOWING LIST AS A FIRST CUT AT A TENTATIVE MINISTERIAL-LEVEL DELEGATION. THE NAMES ARE SUGGESTIVE ONLY:

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE THURGOOD MARSHALL
MR. DAVID ROCKEFELLER, CHAIRMAN, CHASE MANHATTAN
BANK
FORMER PRESIDENT EXIM BANK WILLIAM J. CASEY
FORMER SENATOR GORDON L. ALLOTT OF COLORADO
GOVERNOR G. MENNEN WILLIAMS
AMBASSADOR (RETIRED) JOSEPH PALMER
AMBASSADOR (RETIRED) WILLIAM TRIMBLE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFELLE
AF/S REPRESENTATIVE

4. AS INDICATED REFTTEL, GOB PLACES GREAT IMPORTANCE ON 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AND WILL BE INVITING SEVERAL HEADS OF STATE AS WELL AS MINISTERIAL DELEGATIONS FROM ABOUT 17 COUNTRIES. PRESIDENTS KAUNDA AND MOBUTU WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE IN ATTENDANCE AS WILL AS PROMINENT DELEGATIONS FROM UK AND OTHER MAJOR COUNTRIES. IT WOULD CLEARLY ADVANCE OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH BOTSWANA IF AN APPROPRIATE DELEGATION WERE IN ATTENDANCE FROM THE UNITED STATES. EMBASSY HOPES THAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ASSURE THE PRESENCE OF SUCH A DELEGATION.

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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